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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/782,441	02/13/2001	Wing-Cheong Gilbert Lai	303.261US2	9969
21186	7590	02/12/2004	EXAMINER	
SCHWEGMAN, LUNDBERG, WOESSNER & KLUTH, P.A. P.O. BOX 2938 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402			QUACH, TUAN N	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2814	

DATE MAILED: 02/12/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Supplemental  
Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/782,441

Examiner

Tuan Quach

Applicant(s)

LAI ET AL.

Art Unit

2814

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to \_\_\_\_.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 13-16, 42-48, 52-58.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 13 February 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
  - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. \_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed \_\_\_\_, which has been approved by the Examiner.
  - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. \_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the margin according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)               |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                    | 6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. <u>6204</u> |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No. ____   | 7 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                       |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance                 |
|  | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other   |

### EXAMINER'S COMMENT

This supplemental action indicates the allowance of claims 53-58 which depend from allowed claim 52. Claims 52-58 previously corresponded to the non-elected claims in the Response to Restriction Requirement filed December 15, 2002. In view of applicant's Response filed September 26, 2003, amending claim 52, and in view of substantial similarity and commonality with the features in claims 13 and 42 regarding the particular processing steps associated with the formation of the first and second titanium nitride and the commonly amended features, claims 52-58 are allowed also; the previous Restriction accordingly is modified as merging grouping claims 52-58 with grouping claims 13-16 and 42-48. It is noted that claims 53-58 were omitted in Applicant's Response filed September 26, 2003 which shows the amended claim 52 but did not show claims 53-58.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner Quach whose telephone number (571)272-1717. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F from 9 to 5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor Wael Fahmy can be reached on (571)272-1705. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571)272-1562.

  
Tuan Quach  
Primary Examiner